



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugalsky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Heidi L. Kraus
Edward W. Yee
Albert L. Ferro
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Molly A. McCall
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beaston
Kimberly N. Reddick

Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Bruce E. Chalker
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Christine M. Lhulier
Rae Lynn Prengaman
Jane Shershenovich
Lawrence J. Carroll
George S. Bardmesser
Daniel A. Klein
Rodney G. Maze
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Andrea J. Kamage
Tracy L. Muller
Jon E. Wright
LuAnne M. Yuricek

John J. Figueroa
Ann E. Summerfield
Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Longworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Angelique G. Uy
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pei
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Timothy A. Doyle
Jennifer R. Mahalingappa

Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren
Victoria S. Rutherford
Eric D. Hayes

Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Evan R. Smith

*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
•Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

October 24, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

(202) 772-8660

INTERNET ADDRESS:

TDURKIN@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 10/623,584; Filed: July 22, 2003
For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**
Inventors: Takada *et al.*
Our Ref: 0666.0980004/TGD/RLP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Two pages of Form PTO/SB/08A, listing 33 documents (A1-V1, AA1-AC1 and A2-I2);
3. One page of Form PTO/SB/08B, listing 2 documents (A3 and B3); and
4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
October 24, 2003
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy-Gen G. Durkin".

Tracy-Gen G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,831

TGD/RLP:dbj
Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:191175.1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Takada *et al.*

Appl. No. 10/623,584

Filed: July 22, 2003

For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**

Art Unit: *To be assigned*

Examiner: *To be assigned*

Atty. Docket: 0666.0980004/TGD/RLP

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry,

was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

- ☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form **[OR]** Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form **[OR]** Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.

- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☒ 7. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. 09/923,329, filed August 8, 2001, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,831

Date: 10/24/03

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

3

0666.0980004/TGD/RLP

#191117v1<SKGF_DC1> -sb-08a page 1.wpd svb 08/25/03

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 3

Application Number	10/623,584
Filing Date	July 22, 2003
First Named Inventor	Takada et al.
Art Unit	<i>To be assigned</i>
Examiner Name	<i>To be assigned</i>
Attorney Docket Number	0666.0980003/TGD/RLP

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Date
Considered

#191123v1<SKGF DC1> -sb-08a page 2.wpd svb 08/25/03

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1988, no person is required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <small>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</small>		Application Number	10/623,584
		Filing Date	July 22, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Takada et al.
		Art Unit	To be assigned
		Examiner Name	To be assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	0666.0980004/TGD/RLP
Sheet	3	of	3
NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (where appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
	A3	TRYLINSKI, W., Fine Mechanisms and Precision Instruments, New York, Pergamon Press, (1971) pp. 332-334, TJ181 T7.	
	B3	SHIGLEY, J.E., "Lubrication and Journal Bearings" in <u>Mechanical Engineering Design</u> , New York, McGraw-Hill, (1983) p. 562.	
Examiner Signature			Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.